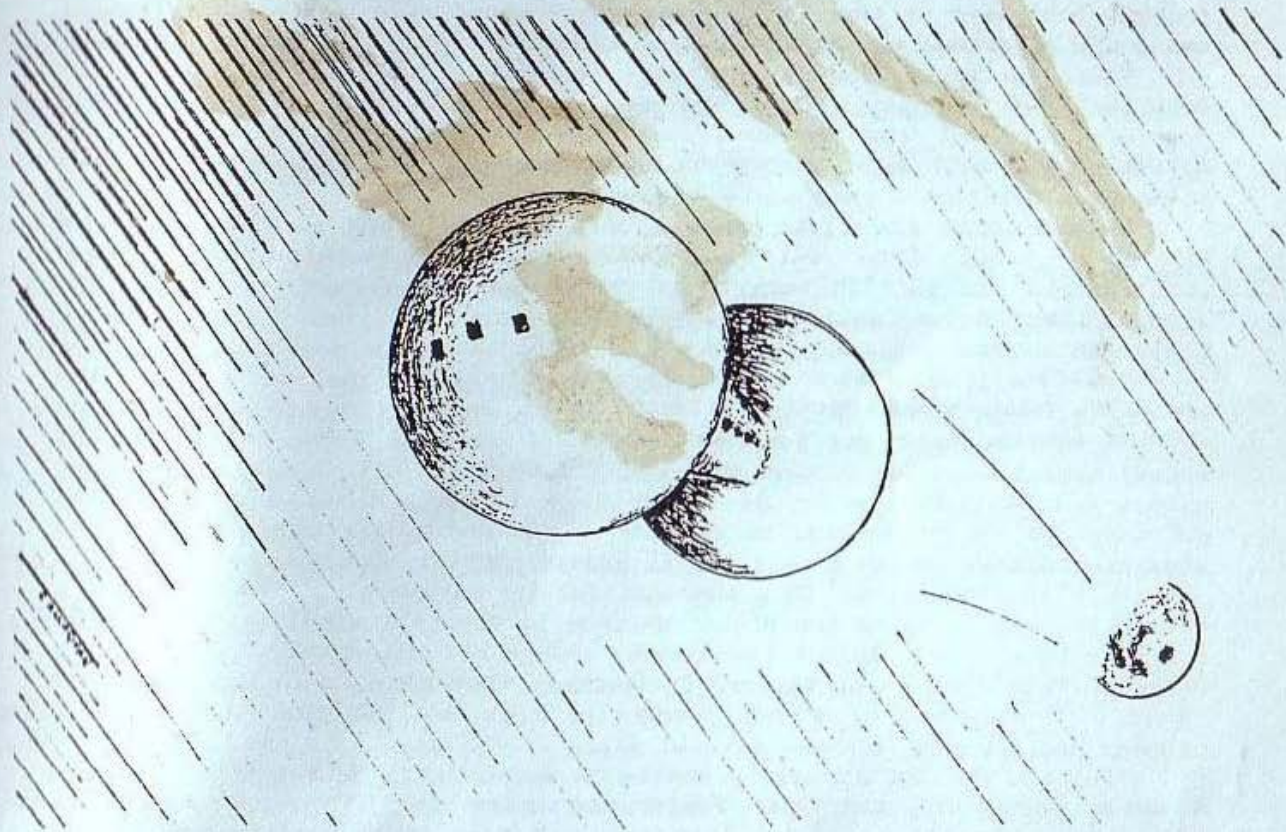


NORTHERN UFO NEWS

158
DEC 1992

All the news, views and up to date cases £7 for six

Editor: Jenny Randles



COVER DESIGN:- BILL CALLAGHAN LOGOS BY:- BILL CALLAGHAN

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Histories...including the fog from nowhere:- a new abduction?

37 HEATHBANK ROAD CHEADLE HEATH STOCKPORT CHESHIRE SK3 0UP

NB: Readers who suspect I have reneged on my promise to increase an issue to 20 pages to compensate for the 4 that were abducted this summer take heart. I have not forgotten. It is a tough job squeezing NUN production into all my other tasks, especially when Christmas printing and postage deadlines have to be met... But as soon as I can into 1993 you'll get your pages back!

J. R. Comments . . . It has been a busy time for some wide ranging media features about our subject. What impact have these had?

Sky TV are noted for showing the sort of programmes which other channels all occasionally air - mindless dramas, cartoon characters involved in incredible situations evidently aimed at a childish audience and a news network watched by a few more people than Wimbledon FC (in fact, to be fair, 100,000 or so). I know the score as I appeared on there in the summer to discuss spontaneous human combustion (supposedly for 3 minutes but it ended up much longer). What went on behind the scenes was fascinating, and perhaps best left at that. In November they chose to screen what I thought was a UFO programme which was somewhat one-dimensional and lacking balance.

Their feature 'A question of extraterrestrial intelligence' was, in my view, the sort of documentary the makers of 'UFO cover up live' would possibly have put together had they visited the UK. If you saw that US milestone you will know whether to interpret such a diagnosis as a good thing or a disaster. I know where my money lies.

Of course, as the title of the show suggests, this was not really a programme about UFOs but one about alien spaceships and global conspiracies. In fact it emerged as 30 minutes in a candy store for the viewers who enjoy massive cover-ups, crashing UFOs and people being kidnapped by the zillions. The idea that UFOs could be anything else or a more reserved presentation of the facts barely got a look in, save for the obviously token gesture of Ian Ridpath's brief and sweeping dismissal.

Of course, these are just my opinions. I am sure those who took part merely expressed their honest views, as Tim Good did with his usual sincere aplomb and skill. But, to me, it was UFOlogy out of a time warp, and to the detriment of the production or success of its message. If anyone saw it and disagrees, please let me know and I'll gladly publish what you say.

As a consequence of this somewhat fervent documentary, however, ITV's networked 'The time and the place' decided to devote their 35 minutes on 24 November to the UFO subject. I was lucky enough to be involved from an early stage on this (and so am biased). Fortunately they do seem to have listened to what I suggested as the production team put together a very well rounded feature that allowed several sides of the debate to have their say.

Tim Good was unfortunately unable to appear at the last minute due to a prior engagement but Omar Fowler, expressing the ETH position, did an admirable job with restraint, plus some aid from Busty Taylor, wearing his UFOlogists hat for the day. My task was to reflect the middle ground and show for the first time on TV the Birchwood Mall video which you have read about in recent NUNs. The shopping centre wanted us to do this in the hope it brought forth a new solution. Sadly, to date, it has not. Finally, the outright sceptical position was effectively handled by Wendy Grossman from Skeptic magazine; although I think her background knowledge of the subject seemed at times slightly limited, as I suspect she'd be first to admit.

However, the undoubted strength of a programme like 'The time and the place' is that it allows scope for witnesses to tell their stories. This was the part of the show that really worked, I thought.

In fact, Central TV, who were responsible for this programme, put out an appeal after their show aired on 19 November and their phone lines were immediately swamped with calls from witnesses who had never gone public. From this they were able to select half a dozen cases that had never been presented before and a good variety of intriguing sightings were prised out of the woodwork. These included a fascinating RAF encounter, a missing time case and some good old fashioned UFO encounters which reinforce your belief in the strange reality of this subject. Most of these are being followed up by investigators at the moment and we should be able to report in NUN on what is discovered.

To me this is the essence of the UFO mystery - not shrieks of cover up, disinformation, government agents and goodness knows what, but ordinary people with no expectations of encountering something odd suddenly plunged into confrontation with the extraordinary. This kind of show, unlike a documentary, has no real likelihood of achieving anything substantial, despite its good audience share of 3 million. However, what it hopefully can bring about is a realisation that there is a vast sea of cases that never reach the ears of science or UFOlogy and, as such, this clearly constitutes real questions which we cannot honestly ignore.

I think it important that we not forget that UFOlogy exists not because some UFOlogists believe in alien craft and massive conspiracies or others that UFOs are 'merely' unresolved natural phenomena. It exists simply because countless responsible people see remarkable things which they cannot immediately identify. Our task is not to convert them to our beliefs about this complex subject but to attempt to identify what they have perceived. Often we can do that, which is fine. That is what serious UFOlogy is all about. But every now and then a case defies resolution and reminds us that there really are unknown phenomena lurking behind the scenes.

It is these cases which should drive us onward to conduct sensible research, tinged with that excitement that comes from knowing that the solution could lie anywhere between some energy force such as the plasma vortex or perhaps that dream of contact with another intelligence. We all have our ideas about what the truth may be, but none of us can know for sure in any single case, not even the witness. We should preserve that humility and do our best to ensure that when thrust before the cameras (as many of us are from time to time) we are more cautious than we might be in private.

I have no doubt some would say (indeed have said to me) that this is what a government agent would do. But such nonsense aside we must not forget our responsibility to the broader issues. For we know that the UFO phenomenon is real. We know that it is not all down to assorted misperceptions. If we are to convince any rational, knowledgeable person of that fact we simply have to take care of what we say and how we say it on the big stage. It is a fact of life that objective people will never pay attention if all you do is kick and scream. On the other hand, if you chip away carefully with well reasoned argument and credible evidence the thinking man and woman can only respond in one of two ways. Either bury their heads in the sand or start to question their own presumptions.

BARGAIN BOOK OFFERS

Brand new ex-warehouse stock available of Sky Crash (£2 \$5) Scary Stories (£2 \$5) Phantom of the soap operas (£5 \$10) Sixth Sense (£5 \$10) The UFO Conspiracy (£3 \$6) Looking for the aliens (£5 \$10) and NEW THIS MONTH Mind Monsters (£3 \$6) American orders cash dollar bills. UK cheques to: - 'Jenny Randles' at 37 Heathbank Rd Cheadle Heath Stockport Cheshire SK3 0UP

NEWS ROUND UP:



:: Enigma Design in Burnley are well worth keeping an eye on. They offer some of the best material in the UFO world at excellent prices. Recent 1992 titles for instance include David Jacobs 'Secret Life' abduction treatise (at £14.99) and Jacques Vallee's booklength diaries 'Forbidden Science' (at £16.95) both unavailable in the UK but at no more than you'd be paying for them if they were. They also have 'From out of the blue', my book updating the Rendlesham Forest/Bentwaters case, not out in the UK (or as yet likely to be) at a price of just £8.95, which is excellent value.

Now, Enigma are the exclusive retail for FATE magazine in the UK. You can get a subscription to the world's only monthly journal about the paranormal for just £20, which undercuts even his special deal of £1.90 per single issue. The latest issue (November - number 512 - which shows this world famous journal's 45 year pedigree) is as always terrific. Jerry Clark looks in detail at a new book in the USA on the Roswell crash (which naturally Enigma are selling already!), John Keel writes each month, there's a report on flying entities seen in Russia and a fascinating story about parallel police and psychic investigations into the tragic murder of parapsychologist D Scott Rogo. Plus lots more. Treat yourself for Christmas.

Orders and catalogues available from Enigma Design at 15 Rydal Street Burnley Lancashire BB10 1HS Tel: 0282-24837.

:: Meanwhile for second hand bargains you can do a lot worse than the new Midnight Books catalogue (SAE to The Haven 21 Windsor Mead Sidford Sidmouth Devon EX10 9SJ). Packed with rare books on UFOs and the paranormal, it's a good browse. But act fast. Real bargains go quickly.

: If your tastes are more musical (or odd), then you might be interested in 'Dive in deep' by Steve Andrews. An old time stalwart of the cheery magazine 'Magic Saucer' which some may recall from its hippy, dippy days of the 70's, his music might well be described in these terms too. He tells me that his album 'includes a live track featuring my spaceship' and according to the blurb promoting it is from a 'wizard or alchemist? super psychic? extraterrestrial being?' Its available on cassette at £5 from Spaceship Sounds at 22 Parker Place Ely Cardiff South Wales CF5 4NS... Quite.

:: There's been an abduction in Livingston, Scotland. But not of a human being. Aliens (well someone anyway) nicked the plaque set up to commemorate the famous 1979 landing case at Dechmont Law. If you recall all it really did was plug Arthur C Clarke, so some may feel it is no great loss. Even so as the only such plaque at a UFO landing site in the world it will be missed by some. Ron Halliday of Scottish Earth Mysteries is mounting a campaign to erect a robust and more artistic creation (a statue) at the site. This sounds a far better idea all round so if you want to offer your support in any way contact him at: - 35 Fountain Rd Bridge of Allan Stirling Scotland FK9 4AU.

:: Finally, reader Steve Gerrard (25 Weston Grove Rd Woolston Southampton Hants SO2 9EE) has launched a newspaper cutting service. He has a library of over 5000 articles on UFOs and crop circles and his service will seek out relevant material for anyone engaged in research. A nice idea.

CIRCULAR LOGIC



Cereology is in utter crisis right now. If you don't believe me all you need do is follow the extraordinary saga of what is occurring in 'The Crop Watcher' (£9 for 6 issues: 3 Selborne Ct Tavistock Close Romsey Hants SO51 7TY). This is, in my view, the only magazine worth reading and is presently more free than ever from attachment to any organisation or viewpoint, other than good old common sense. Paul Fuller tells all that goes on behind the scenes in a field where by a long way the people researching the phenomenon are a heck of a lot more fascinating than what they are investigating.

Issue 12 (Jul/Aug) has an excellent detailed catalogue of Australian crop circle cases, lots of inside info on hoaxers caught in the act and (lest you think the Meaden theory is being promoted uncritically by TCW) a pretty negative assessment of the meteorologists latest ideas.

Issue 13 (Sep/Oct) contains some important material from the Meteorological Office concerning Pat Delgado's current book (a letter reprinted in full which should be studied), has a report on the amazing latest thoughts of a top cereologist who is using nicknames like 'Bill Bailey' and 'Spiderman' to allegedly identify what we might term 'traitors in our midst', and an in-depth debate spanning several pages discussing Andy Collins 'orgone energy' theory and its potential to unravel the mystery.

There is lots more in each issue, including a report on how one of Dr Meaden's top supporters (Professor Ohtsuki in Japan) has now been snared by hoaxers and (unlike elsewhere) plenty of reference to newly uncovered data on eyewitness observations and historical cases.

If you believe cereology is dead, TCW will make you think again. At present this subject is more exciting than ever - a delight for sociologists I shouldn't wonder. Issue 14 (December) promises some even more incredible stuff which blows the lid off another big can of worms in the heart of this enormous field of dreamers. It really is hard to see how some people are going to emerge from the gathering storm clouds apparently mounting on several fronts with too much credibility intact.

Overall, as those who saw the improved version of the 'Equinox' (Channel 4) documentary on 25 October will know, my opinion is that the subject has gone through a very important catharsis which is exposing bare all that is wrong with our research. Perhaps the right thing to do is forget cereology for a few summers, let the hoaxers and the dreamers get fed up as the media (thankfully) already have, and come back later to quiet, unassuming and uncontaminated research into the relatively few and simple real circles which do exist, always have existed and will continue to manifest in future.

Meanwhile, Dr Meaden (whom I believe will eventually be shown to have been more right than anyone about circles, though not entirely right) has switched a good deal of attention away from the subject in the Journal of Meteorology (£24 for 10, 54 Frome Rd Bradford on Avon Wilts BA15 1LD) I believe it is no bad thing to call a moratorium as J. Met still has some fascinating (and useful) content. For instance the October and November issues include several reports of recent ball lightning, a look at the GAIA theory and several other relevant pieces - plus the more straight meteorological papers (eg one tackling the myth of the rains of Manchester).

However, if you are sad that the era of the crop circle seems to be much on the wane, you can rest assured that publications have not dried up completely as yet. Three new very different offerings have just emerged.

The prolific Donald Cyr has brought out his sequel 'Crop Circle Secrets 2' - subtitled 'America's first circle'. This 96 page well illustrated book comprises his ideas and lots of papers and letters from others in response to book 1 surrounding his fascinating theories. These link VLF radiation with vortices and the circles. The title comes from the discovery of an eyewitness account from native American literature dating back 150 years. More like a scientific debate (but on very readable lines) I think its well worth a look at £7 from Leonard Smith (UK agent) 16 Solstice Rise Amesbury Salisbury Wiltshire SP4 7NQ.

Prolific also well describes Andy Collins. Not content with churning out fascinating books he has now produced a well illustrated 16 page booklet 'The Woodham Bee' which reviews the crop circle cases in Essex during summer 1992 including plenty of photos and diagrams. Excellent and very useful stuff at the very reasonable price of £1 (his very good book 'The Circlemakers' being available at £4.95 from the same source) c/o ABC Books PO Box 189 Leigh-on-Sea Essex SS9 1NF

Finally (and you cannot get more different!) Contact UK, considered a major international group, launch an Awareness special issue under the title 'World Exclusive: Is this an alien?' I must admit I thought twice as to whether this was intended as an 'Alternative 3' style wind-up, but it is not obviously so. The group (presumably as a body?) issue 'a statement from Contact International' in which they report how one of their team established telepathic contact with an alien on 25 June 1992 and that in a long series of messages, now involving several others from the groups team, they have learnt that these beings are the ones making the crop circles! The last remaining 950 energy creatures arrived from the planet Metan on 20 March 1980 after a journey of one million light years. Many live invisibly in the skies over England because it 'has the best source of natural energy' but others are scattered globally. Parcels of energy have to be sent 'via the winds' to some of them who are not floating over such good supplies. A description is offered as to how they create circles and why they are doing it. A 'self portrait' is even included, adding that the Metans look like a dentists drill. Contact do, understandably, note that 'you are not expected to believe all of this in one go' (quite!) but urge readers to send in questions to the aliens, adding 'we understand that a reply is always given.' If you want to read the full story of this extraordinary claim write to : 11 Ouseley Close New Marston Oxford OX3 0JS

ECLIPSING THE UNKNOWN (3) by Robert France

We continue our look at the contactee and abductee with the magical grades. Within them there is the rank of high adept. These are humans who through years of training and self-conditioning have familiarised themselves with and learnt to utilise the powers of their subconscious mind. Having arrived at this status, the high adept is able to create his own 'astral plane' of reality. The more he puts into it by way of creative visualisation, the longer lasting and more 'real' it will become. It is even possible to interact with this self created reality by way of astral travel

The adept can also create three-dimensional images in his mind, literally on another plane of existence. He can create an object and through ritual and the manipulation of will draw this form into the three-dimensional reality of the world in the manner of a controlled form of apparition.

Such methods are also involved in the creation of short-lived, single purpose humanoid forms. They are not living creatures and their functional extent is as 'fetchers' and 'carriers'. Do these not remind you of something which features in the stranger UFO literature - the Men in Black? These mysterious beings warn against particular lines of research, or suggest that all enquiries are halted, or involve ludicrous, almost nonsensical confrontations.

Why should there not be a 'magickal' content to the UFO/alien phenomenon? There is a mass of circumstantial evidence which points to its origin being essentially magickal rather than extraterrestrial. For instance, many aspects parallel mythologies such as that in Celtic antiquity. The tall, blond almost sensual form of alien encountered in many older cases are like angelic beings. But why should they be extraterrestrials? We only have their word for it. In other words, much of the confrontation is based on visual and emotional qualities rather than tangible evidence that beings are what they say they are.

Fay is an old word for fairy and a fay is not some kind of wispy-winged creature, but tall, commanding and beautiful creatures who could be either benevolent or cruel. On close scrutiny many of the alleged aliens conform quite closely to the alluring charm and almost magickal qualities of these supernatural agencies of old. Even when humans were taken to the fays otherworld it tended to parallel the reports given by witnesses who are transported to alien worlds.

In the next issue we will explore the properties of this strange otherworld.

FOR YOUR PERUSAL

Major articles elsewhere



OVNI Nov (??? for 12:- 12 Tilton Grove Kitk Hallam Ilkeston DE7 4GR)
More triangles over the East Midlands and David Icke in Nottingham.

Anomaly 11 (£4 for 2 or free in ASSAP sub: 20 Paul Street Frome BA11 1DX)
Nice to see this mag back on regular track. Here John Spencer discusses coincidences with some interesting cases (including one involving me) (and here's another, I had a similar article on coincidences in Anomaly 1)

Fortean Times 66 (£2, major newsagents: Sub via:- 20 Paul St Frome BA11 1DX)
The new format makes it look even bigger, but its as good as always. Aside from all the usual weird events theres a fascinating look at the mirage of Bristol supposedly seen in Alaska! Plus John Keel is at it again.

Earthquest Winter (£2.50 for 1, ABC Books PO Box 189 Leigh on Sea SS9 1NF)
Yes, its him again! Andy Collins semi regular magazine has 54 crammed pages of fascinating stuff. The 7 Meonia swords are finally brought together... A strange photographic case of earthlights and crop circles in Essex with a well illustrated look at other photo anomalies and a good piece on Tully circles and the aboriginal background.

Folklore Frontiers 17 (£5, for 4:5 Egton Dr Seaton Carew Cleveland TS25 2AT)
A rich selection of news items and snippets on a variety of urban folklore stories.

IUR Oct (\$30 for 6:- 2457 W Peterson Ave Chicago IL 60659 USA)
Chris Rutkowski discusses circles in Manitoba, Canada...Keith Basterfield reviews Australian abductions and Walter Webb recalls a 1956 visit to ATIC.

MUFON Journal (\$30 for 12:- 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin TX 78155-4099 USA)
Sep:- Budd Hopkins gives his first in-depth report on the now infamous 'witnessed' abduction in New York and Dennis Stacy describes his 1992 circle-tour of England...Oct:- Linda Moulton Howe updates animal mutilations and the Gulf Breeze 'road shot' photo finally gets some incisive comment. Many researchers here thought it the key all along.

Oribiter Sep (Exchange for data:- PO Box 652 Reading MA 01867 USA)
A number of interesting media items, eg on Roswell reproduced, plus the first reprinting of the complete Air Miss report on one of the 1992 UK cases.

A E (\$20 CAN cash 2 St Clair Ave West Suite 607 Toronto Canada M4V 1L5)
The October issue of this important close encounter debating chamber (full title Bulletin of Anomalous Experience). Dennis Stacy presents an intriguing theory of abductions relating to repressed abortion memories, plus the usual excellent set of important abstracts from the recent psychological press.

Strange 10 (£13.50 for 4 to 'Mark Chorvinsky' Box 2246 Rockville MD 20847)
The latest edition of this meaty magazine (akin to Fortean Times) is a 'Humanoids' special including pieces by John Keel, Jerry Clark and Nigel Watson. Jerry even asks where the 'greys' were before recent US cases. Quite!

UFORA Digest Sep (??? c/o PO Box 2435 Cairns QLD 4870 Australia)
All the latest sightings from the UFO Research Australia network. Everything from low definition up to CE 4 cases. Fascinating archival material.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT



First, important news from Jerome Clark. Those who read the review of 'The UFO Encyclopedia Volume 2' (last issue) or of volume 1 (see issue 146) will recall that I heartily endorsed this exceptional and exciting project but was disappointed by the price of \$85 per volume. Paying over £150 for all three books put what amounts to the best UFO publications in years out of range of many UFOlogists. I am delighted to tell you that publishers Omnigraphics (at Penobscot Building Detroit MI 48226 USA) have now brought out cut-price paperback editions aimed at the UFO market for the far more reasonable sum of \$34 each. You can even pay \$99 and get all three (including the final part of the trilogy, due in 1993 - Volume 3:- 'High Strangeness', which will be covering the decades of the 1960's and 1970's). If you still think £60, plus postage, seems like a lot to pay for all three volumes (which fill around 1 million words), let me absolutely reassure you. These books are easily worth it. This is the ultimate in UFO encyclopedia and form a set that no serious UFO researcher should be without. Treat yourself. I doubt that you will regret doing so.

Incidentally, Albert Budden tells me that publishers just blocked his book title of 'High Strangeness' because they said this implied drug usage!

Also on this theme of identical names cropping up this year, I gather that Paramount pictures have a new UFO movie coming in Spring 1993 with the title 'Fire in the sky' (the same fairly odd one as my 1989 BUFORA report on the Peter Day movie film!) Apparently this is just another coincidence.

THE PLAINS OF SAN AGUSTIN CONTROVERSY \$25 US 88 page publication 1992
From 'Center for UFO Studies' 2457 W Peterson Ave Chicago IL 60659 USA

This publication is the latest round in the continuing debate about the Roswell UFO crash from 1947, comprising the position papers from various sides of an argument about some of the more contentious aspects of the evidence (notably the testimony of Gerald Anderson regarding the reputed alien bodies found at San Agustin). The dispute between UFOlogists includes Kevin Randle, Don Schmitt, Don Berliner and others and this joint CUFOS/Fund for UFO Research manuscript emerges from a two day private symposium held in Chicago in February to allow the various parties to present their case and supportive evidence. Within these claims and counterclaims you get a good insight into why this case is still so hotly debated in UFO circles.

SYMBOLIC LANDSCAPES 184 pp, inc colour photos, Gothic Image £14.95
SHAMANISM AND THE MYSTERY LINES 238 pp, inc line drawings, Quantum £ 7.99

These are the two latest offerings from the doyen of earth mysteries, Paul Devereux. Although in some respects they tread the same ground on similar themes they have differing emphases and look quite dissimilar.

Not surprisingly, the more expensive softback is excellently illustrated, whereas the Quantum book is more text-orientated; although with quite a few line sketches and maps. They do complement one another and together represent an outline of Devereux's blossoming thesis about hidden energies and the inter-relationship between mind and the earth.

'Symbolic Landscapes' has a sub-title of 'The dreamtime earth'. It starts by charting the state of consciousness found in the 'dreamtime' of the Australian aboriginal tribes and present in other ancient cultures and ranges into a suggestion of how this altered state of consciousness might relate to an awareness and use of landscape features and the sites found within Wessex. Crop circles and UFOs are only mentioned in passing, noting how abductions might refer to modern day expressions of a similar theme.

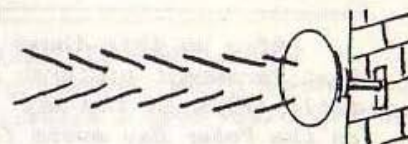
Less visually appealing, but still well designed and with the usual deep research and reference material that Paul Devereux is noted for, 'Shamanism' explores this view of consciousness in relationship to a more global spread of leys and similar 'energy lines' and features such as rock paintings. In tandem the books introduce a fascinating psychoanalysis of ancient civilisation and their potential paranormal significance which does provide some clues that could be applied to close encounter UFO research.

UFO ENCOUNTERS 128 pp Many photos Publications International, USA 1992

No price quoted for this large format general UFO book not out in the UK. It has a garish unappealing cover and you have to look hard to find it attributed inside to Jerome Clark and Marcello Truzzi. As coffee table books go such a pedigree ensures some credibility but the production quality is frankly nothing to shout about and the crediting of discoveries on the Bentwaters case to Cable News Network a bit puzzling. Not a bad book but, in comparison with Jerry Clark's encyclopedia, nothing to write home about.

MEDIA MATTERS

A look at UFOs in the public eye



It seems that the Sport have recovered their form. Lately we've had several 'I swear its true' type stories, eg the seconds old baby that screamed 'Not Again!' in front of its startled mother and the doctor presiding over its birth. In UFO terms we have learnt that 'new evidence' found in a pyramid (where else) has revealed that Noah was the first ever alien abductor and the ark was, of course, a flying saucer.

Meanwhile, in their extensively researched and restrained feature, 'Are ET studs bonking our birds?' we discover the truth about a new case under study by the Independent UFO Network (this has not been in 'Brigantia as yet - mind you, as most readers have commented, nothing has. Brigantia seems to have suffered a time lapse and been kidnapped by mysterious forces)

Stuart Smith told the Sport (16 Aug) that 'sex beasts from space appeared as the (Nottingham) housewife lay naked in bed...'...the rest is hereby censored by NUN... Aside from these (undoubtedly accurate) quotes, the Sport have a file on other 'close encounters of the perv kind' (the rudest they could find from the books of Hopkins, Jacobs et al) and also cite some strange person they call 'best selling UFO author Jenny Randle'. Since I must have spoken with the Sport during an ASC it was odd to see I am quite fairly quoted as saying that psychologists have failed to disprove these cases and 'although we are trying to find out what else they could be, we cannot rule out the possibility that they are true.' Dearie me, if they are not careful they will start getting a reputation for good reporting next!

Meanwhile, the News of the World (22 Nov) was one of several sources to carry the case of a New York doctor reputedly investigated by the health department over fears that he might be 'mentally unbalanced and unfit to practice medicine'. The charges were rejected but his claims are that he had been abducted by aliens based at the South Pole who, the paper note, have links with the Nazi's and plot to renew genocide.

Uri Geller now has a regular column in the Daily Star and on 16 Oct wrote 'Lost in Space'. As forthright as ever Uri informs us that aliens 'have been waging war on this planet for centuries'... He alleges that UFOs can 'lure people into unbelievable situations. It's virtually impossible to resist the invitation.' He then adds five helpful clues to enable readers to decide if they have been kidnapped - eg have you ever been unable to remember where you were? A few million folk after last orders must have answered yes to that one and now eagerly await regression hypnosis.

Finally, at the height of the debate (see page 11) Scotland on Sunday (1 Nov) asked which British politician people thought might be an alien. Sir David Steel suggested Lord Tebbit was a 'brother of Mr Spock', Ken Livingston reported that he was himself from the planet amphibious awaiting his flesh eating brothers to hatch (um...), astronomer/cereologist Archie Roy remarked that aliens would be far beyond us in intelligence and maturity and so no politician would qualify and noted SF writer J G Ballard wryly pointed out that he likened the house of commons to a spaceship carrying beings who find ordinary humans totally incomprehensible, adding that the feeling was mutual. For the record, I was also asked, and my comments were as follows: - 'The most common type of aliens that are seen are grey and bland - which politician does that describe to you?'

SCOTLAND AT THE CENTRE OF THE UFO GALAXY

This autumn Scotland has suddenly found itself at the focus of world UFO attention. It is worth looking at how this all came about.

On 26 September 'The Scotsman' carried an article 'Where on earth did the Martians go?' by Albert Morris. It alleged (presumably based on Philip Mantle's much quoted pre August conference publicity exercise) that 'UFO watchers' were reporting that UFOs 'were leaving, or have left, the earth's environs, perhaps never to return. Were they ever with us in the first place?' He added (although from what source is unclear) that 'a growing number of UFO watchers' are convinced that all UFOs are merely aircraft lights and phenomena such as mass hallucination... Which is news to me.

This may have been a misreading of a quote of mine in 'Chat' magazine, as Morris then cites figures I gave there for the lower number of sightings added to our files in recent years. However, that reduction is partly because we tend to reject obvious IFOs these days and so more of the cases we record are of a higher quality and more likely to be unexplained.

The rest of Morris's article was cynical, insulting and often frankly ridiculous (eg 'the most frightening aspect of such alleged phenomena is the UFOlogists themselves - people with very large egos, tunnel vision, who hear strange buzzing noises, see curious lights before their eyes and who desperately need aliens as a substitute for their lost religion.') But fear not - the UFOs were about to come back to haunt these hasty words.

Four weeks later Anaya published my book 'UFOs and how to see them'. This features a review of world UFO hot spots and two of the five British centres were by chance in Scotland. Evidently this struck a chord and (to my surprise) I found myself amidst a torrent of media interest north of the border. This included five radio interviews, a piece for the Scottish TV news and quite widespread newspaper coverage - eg 'Alien area' (Edinburgh Evening News), 'Scotland top of the hotspots for UFOs' (Glasgow Herald) and 'Scotland good for spotting aliens in the sky' (Aberdeen Press) (all 26 Oct)

I was grateful for such unexpected attention, which referred to several key Scottish cases that are mentioned in the book. But it must have stimulated public awareness and a willingness to report sightings. Was that unrelated to what happened next - which was a major wave of UFO activity?

A couple of days after the media blitz Malcolm MacDonald, Falkirk district environmental health officer, reported that a very shaken local businessman had related a sighting to the council who had called in his team. The report came from the Bonnybridge area and a councillor confirmed that there were other sightings. The matter was being taken seriously. Gradually the local Falkirk media (between 4 and 12 November) revealed the extent of the Bonnybridge flap as more sightings poured in. The story soon spread to the rest of the country's press, to the extent that by 8 Nov the Glasgow Mail was reporting how 'terrified townsfolk are scouring the sky at night', adding that 22 cases had already been collated by the council.

Councillor Billy Buchanan insisted that 'too many people have sighted UFOs for it to be dismissed lightly... The last thing I want to do is create hysteria. If there is another explanation for all these sightings then I will be glad to hear it.' He confirmed reports that the council were calling in a local UFOlogist (Malcolm Robinson presumably) to assist them.

Whilst I hope we will have a full report on these events from the likes of Malcolm, Ron Halliday and Fergus Storrier in future issues it is worth giving an introduction to some of the strange things which are being recorded.

It seems that reports go back into the Spring but around 22.00 on 3 November there was a well witnessed event. Most people describe a brilliant light and a low hum emitted by an object which can hover and at close view be seen as a cluster of lights. A woman and her daughter at Kincardine describe a triangular shape studded with lights like a Christmas tree.

As Malcolm Robinson at SPI got stuck into these sightings Ron Halliday at the Scottish Earth Mysteries centre picked up on reports of a green light seen in Edinburgh on the evening of 27 October. Further north BUFORA coordinator and police officer Fergus Storrier, was urging residents in the Muchalls and Stonehaven area to come forward after several saw red and white lighted cylinder shapes. More green lights were seen in Edinburgh (eg one by a police officer on 12 November) and some of them sound suspiciously like meteors, but they are also akin to the infamous 'green fireballs' of UFO lore. However, there were so many that by the end of November Ron Halliday announced the setting up of a 'hot line' where witnesses could call from all over Scotland at local rates. This was extensively promoted and cases flooded in. It even got a brief mention in the London press.

Perhaps the most intriguing case is the earliest, dated in March 1992 from the moors between Hallglen and Bonnybridge. A woman was walking on back roads with her mother and brother at 19.00 one night when they saw a big blue light seemingly land beside the road. On getting closer the glare filled their path and they heard a whirring and rattling noise like a door opening. The mother fled, just as a 'big truck thing, like a huge Tonka toy, came out of the trees'. There was a flash of light as if someone was taking their pictures. I must admit that on first glance with this case one has to wonder if they did not stumble upon some sort of military exercise.

We'll bring further news when we can. Meantime you could do worse than get hold of SPI's excellent bi-monthly magazine, 'Enigmas', which is 40 pages packed with reports on strange phenomena in Scotland and will surely cover these events. Cost is £10 for 5: - 41 The Braes Tullibody FK10 2TT Scotland.

BRIEF CASES

Some current investigations



9122 August 1991 Holywell, Clwyd, Wales

Margaret Fry

C2-5

Miss B (a 19 year old student) was in her boyfriend's kitchen at 21.15 when she saw a 'large white circular object with flames streaking from the rear' shoot overhead. She ran outside but it had gone. It was silent and seen for just 2-3 seconds. A fireball meteor perhaps; although UFOs often seen here.

15 September 1991 Pontypool, Gwent, Wales Kerry Blower

B3-7

Some 7 witnesses, including the BUFORA AI herself, were in two cars on the A 4042 between Abergavenny and Pontypool. It was 19.50. They observed a bright white star which was stationary for some seconds and then seemed to dim to about one-tenth its prior brilliance and move off slowly before vanishing 'as if a light was switched off'. Other witnesses say it accelerated like a jet and sped out of view. It was seen over a Chemical plant and reported to the police as being something odd. But the driver of one car said he thought it was just an aircraft of some kind and so he paid little heed to it.

9210 29 March 1992 South Reddish, Cheshire MUFORA B3-5

Ms S was on the phone at home at 19.45 when she observed over opposite rooftops a yellow/golden eye in the sky. It drifted very slowly behind a house. She tried to explain it to her boyfriend on the phone but he just laughed. Her mother came up at her call and when it re-emerged from behind rooves had an asthma attack from shock. Then it vanished behind another roof and as they waited with the camera never reappeared. An hour later and about 2 miles away (at Shaw Heath, Stockport) a husband and wife saw a very similar thing (a drifting white orb). They called Manchester Airport who said it was probably a laser beam. Then they called Jodrell Bank and MUFORA became involved. Roy Sandbach called the airport and asked if any airships were flying. He was told no. However, by fortune MUFORA member Victor Sleigh saw the object from Salford at 20.10 and was adamant it WAS an airship. He called the Daily Star (owner of the blimp that had created the February wave of reports) and they said their craft was back in Florida. Eventually we did establish that this was a blimp promoting a tyre manufacturers and it had landed at Manchester Airport, despite their protestations!

9211 6 April 1992 Bollington, Cheshire MUFORA / Peter Hough C3-6

Mr W and adult son were in a car in a location with an expansive open view using a radio to listen to aircraft landing at Manchester Airport. At 00.53 a white light was seen through the sunroof and they watched for several seconds as it moved rapidly across sky on a downward diagonal, being lost into cloud. Both say they felt a heavy vibration in the air and next day Mr W had a pounding headache.

9212 16 June 1992 Wigan, Lancashire MUFORA / Peter Hough B3-6

Mr M is a police officer. At 03.10 on a hot night he was awoken by his wife who was watching a large orange ball dropping slowly down through the sky. Mrs M got out of bed and went to the window. Mr M saw it from bed. Both say it was like a giant football. Mr M says his initial thought was of a distress flare. But then it stopped dead in the sky and rushed away into the south east, reducing to the size of a pinhead. Duration was about 40 seconds and so difficult to equate with anything like a meteor. Any ideas?

9217 13 July 1992 Coseley, West Midlands Raymond Bates C2-5

A 17 year old who admits he is 'very interested in UFOs' says he saw a white egg rise from the ground at 15.15 on a cloudy day. It then shot skywards at high speed. During the 2 minutes observation he claims to have had a constant 'beating' sensation behind his temples and a buzzing noise in his ears.

LIGHT SHOW OVER THE CLEVELAND MOORS

9218 8 August 1992 Skutterskelfe, Yarm, Cleveland MUFORA C3-6

Long duration UFO sightings almost always turn out to be a type of IFO. Yet in this case we have a truly spectacular sequence of events which lasted for hours. It was witnessed from a remote location on the borders with North Yorkshire and involves three people; two teenagers and their 26 year old architect friend who was visiting from Essex. It was a pretty cloudy night.

Remarkably, B (the friend) had just described an encounter he had with his mother several years earlier. In a car they had seen a cigar shaped object that had flipped on edge and become disk-like. Coincident with this the car engine and lights drained of energy (but did not stop). The UFO then shot off and the car returned to normal. After relating this story (around midnight) they went out onto the balcony as B said he had seen a 'streak of light' (the others did not). At 00.30 they spotted a blue/white flash followed by an orange light that grew brighter as it climbed upward. Eventually it 'burned itself out' and vanished. They saw both these things numerous times over the 3 hours they were out there. The most spectacular thing they saw (twice) was a 'halo which made silhouettes of the hills... patchy and a bit like a spotlight. It moved along the range of hills quickly.' They also saw oval like lights rotating around one another (which sounds exactly like the computer controlled laser light shows that have generated so many recent cases). During the encounter a humming noise like distant aircraft was heard and A (the woman) said she felt her exposed skin go prickly. Her friend merely reported an odd sensation like being probed. When they returned indoors afterwards they felt oddly 'high' for about half an hour. MUFORA enquiries show that there was an inversion layer trapping mist which could have produced an optical mirage effect on very distant lights to the south. Another option is that military exercises were afoot in the hills and some of their activity (flares, searchlights and helicopters) were magnified by the conditions. Only ideas. Any other offers?

THE WIRRAL BEACH BALL

Report by Mark Glover of MUFORA & BUFORA

Case 78-290 Summer 1978

West Kirby, Wirral

MED & INST / P

A6-6

This is an extremely well conducted investigation with a curious sequel. The witness (J) was only 11 at the time of the incident and was walking his dog on the prom by the beach around 14.00 on a sunny day. He was approached by a man who pointed to a silver ball hovering over the sea. Handing a pair of binoculars to J the man urged him to look closely and he did so. It hovered for about 5 minutes and then climbed very fast, before dropping downward and moving right at great speed. It then stayed there another 10 minutes before returning to its original position and then climbed upwards again, turning greenish/red before vanishing. J and the stranger walked to a small outcrop of sandstone (known as Red Rocks) which is accessible at low tide but they could not find the object again.

At first glance this does not sound all that exciting. The object reminds one of many things - a high flying kite or a tethered balloon for instance. But there are other aspects to the case which might increase its strangeness. J alleges, for example, that three black and old fashioned Jaguar cars were parked on the sea front. A man, aged 30-35, 6 ft tall, with pale skin and what was described as 'make up' round the eyes, and who was wearing a black suit, got out and spoke to the boy. The dog became agitated for the first time at this point and J says he was frightened. The man had advised J to go home. He declined to do so.

Mark Glover notes that J seems to have a sense of drama (he mentioned neither these strangers nor a second, perhaps more interesting, sighting at first) and opened his letter to Jenny Randles with words like 'you are my last hope'. He also appears to be familiar with paranormal literature.

After the experience J claims he has had vivid nightmares of nuclear explosions over the Mersey estuary and feeling his flesh roast. Then in June 1988 whilst camping (alone) for a week by Lake Coniston in Cumbria he says he felt a strange sensation 'like my brains being picked' and saw a silver ball over the lake which buzzed about then shot skyward. He alleges that he awoke that night with aching sensations all over his body.

On 11 August 1992 Mark Glover took site photographs on the beach using his 1000 polaroid land camera using 10 exposure SX 70 colour film (which has behaved normally before and since...indeed a later shot on the same film from his workplace is unaffected). Yet 5 of the 8 shots taken on the beach show a white ball of light in the sky. Mark saw nothing as he was taking the pictures and after the object developed in front of his eyes he looked for it in the sky but it was not there - yet still kept appearing on his shots. One thought is the possibility of some kind of sun reflection but the image appears on shots pointing in several different directions. Ideas?

THE FOG FROM NOWHERE Report for BUFORA by Judith Jaafar & Ken Phillips

A family of five in a car who suddenly undergo a close encounter is a familiar CE 4 scenario (note for example the very similar Aveley case). Here there was Mr and Mrs B, twin daughters (aged 7) and a younger daughter (aged 5). It was 10.30 BST on 8 August 1992 and they were driving a regular route to visit shops in Milton Keynes, passing Hockliffe (Bedfordshire). The girls were singing Beatles songs in the back. Suddenly Mr B saw a strange thick mist appear out of nowhere. Within a second all was silent and they were out the other side in a flash. A torrential downpour struck. Mrs B reports that Mr B had said he would buy a mac when they got to Milton Keynes when 'in the blinking of an eye we were 8 miles further on in the woods...we just seemed to be there...I was thinking about a quiet feeling and that there was no other traffic (very odd on a Saturday)... (Mr B) didn't seem to be controlling the car.' (Mrs B) Mr B confirmed that he felt this too.

They stopped at Fishermead, Milton Keynes, to fill up with fuel. It was 10.50 and there did not seem to be a time lapse but there was a space lapse. Both could recall nothing of the past 20 minutes. Mr B also found his coordination was badly awry when he tried to use the petrol pump. Mrs B also missed the door handle when she tried to close it. She recalls a pins and needles sensation in her head and that people 'seemed strange somehow'. This continued for half an hour more. Mrs B said the sensation was so odd that she even thought that they had had a crash, were now dead and were wandering around as ghosts with everyone else unaware of their presence. On arrival home Mrs B even said to her mother 'we are real, we are here aren't we?' At another point she said 'I think it's happened...we've been in a flying saucer.' They asked the children if they recalled going over a bump in the road at Woburn and they said yes. But they added that nobody had spoken for 15 minutes or so which was very odd, especially given the jovial mood the girls were in immediately prior to the incident. That night Mr B found a small patch on his abdomen when having a bath. On the Sunday morning Mr B pointed out a strange red mark on the back of his wife's head. It was about an inch across with a triangular base. Neither visited a doctor and it faded after a week. There was also a tiredness that overcame the family and a sense of distorted time as if they were jet lagged and out of synch (eg not wanting to eat at the normal times). This persisted over the weekend.

Mrs B has an extensive track record of strange events, including OOBES and premonitions. In 1972 (then aged 20) she saw a white light bouncing along the ground. In 1976 she had a strange 'dream' in which she 'awoke' and heard a distant sound moving away and felt certain she had been inside a UFO. Staying at a cottage in Whalley Bridge (Derbyshire) in 1983 she experienced strange noises and sensations in the night and her mother who was also there claimed she had 'dreamt' of two small beings appearing and trying to drag her out of bed. Mrs B appears to want regression hypnosis but is very familiar with CE 4 literature. To date the investigators have not recommended this. The case certainly has potential... What do you think?

FINAL WORDS...

Up and coming events is an unusual conference at Wembley Arena on Saturday 9 Jan / Sunday 10 Jan. - 'The first international conference that exposes a global deception' with lectures on things like AIDS as a manmade disease, secret aircraft in the Nevada desert and UFOlogist William Cooper on 'the inner structure of the new world order' (?) The event runs from 10 am to 10 pm each day and tickets cost £20.50 per day or £31 for the two (with some reduced concessions). Bookings care of box office 081-900-1234.

More standard events are BUFORA lectures (6.30 pm at the London Business School, Regents Park outer Circle) (£3 non members, £1.50 members): - 9 Jan Maria Korn tells of her own contactee and men in black experiences 6 Feb Geoff Viney (or 'Lazarus') WILL this time present his new theories 6 Mar Jenny Randles will update new ideas and research into abductions

There is also a regional event on 16 Jan at the Friends Meeting House, Wellington St, Northampton (start 1.30). Paul Fuller will give the latest on crop circles and Gary Harlow (ie 'Gary the alien' from UFOs: A British Viewpoint) will relate his own extraordinary story.

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27 (26)

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